



Meet Alex and Hardie Pastoral Co - Winners of 2023 Gundagai Lamb Grid Performance Award.

Alex and his two brothers, Grahame and Berkeley, were born and raised in the Wallendbeen district. To this day, all three boys and their growing young families, live and work on the family farm alongside their parents, Steven and Louanda Hardie. Since the brothers have all made the decision to come home, this has meant that the farm itself, and the business, has undergone significant growth in the past decade.

Hardie Pastoral Company is a successful mixed farming business, with a primary focus on sheep and cropping (predominantly wheat and canola). They first became involved with Gundagai Lamb last year and since then, have enjoyed working with and learning from the peer network that has been formed through the Gundagai Lamb Pioneers Program.

What does Alex love about what he does? – ‘I am not a person who likes to sit back and let the grass grow under my feet. I believe the most rewarding aspects of running a business involve taking on new challenges and seeing the change that evolves from new ideas. The expansion of our business and moving forward with new innovations in agriculture is something that really excites me.

In terms of our sheep enterprise, producing a highly fertile animal that demonstrates excellent growth rates is something that we strive to do and are seeing great results. We are eager to continue improving the eating quality of our animals and have seen the outcome of this when sampling some of the high quality GLQ5+ lamb. Undeniably the best lamb I have ever tasted! I can certainly see a demand for this quality product, and I believe that Gundagai Lamb are definitely onto a good thing’.

Last year, Hardie Pastoral Company was awarded the winner of the Gundagai Lamb Grid Performance Award. This particular award honours the highest proportion of lambs that fall within the following grid ranges and have consigned at least twice throughout the season with Gundagai Lamb.

- Hot standard carcase weight – 20 to 30kg
- Hot standard carcase weight – 18-32kg
- Lean meat yield –50-57%

In response to winning this award Alex stated that he is ‘motivated by achieving success and that being recognised for outstanding performance this year has just spurred the business on to continue to supply as a safe and reputable producer. We have been working alongside James Corcoran of

Gooramma Poll Dorset Stud, and his knowledge and advice has been instrumental in helping us achieve some of these goals. We are excited about the direction in which Gundagai Lamb is going and we look forward to seeing what's to come in the future'.

When Alex isn't farming, what does he like to do? Like every farmer we talk to – they love what they do and wouldn't have it any other way. However, in all farming enterprises, being time poor is a reality and a conscious effort needs to be made to make time for off-farm interests. Having young families keeps Alex and his brothers busy. They are able to work well together as a team and allow each other time to fit in doing things they enjoy. For Alex, skiing, golf and tennis are some of the things he likes to do when time permits, plus dreaming up that caravan trip around Australia one day!!!

Keep up the good work Alex and Hardie Pastoral Co.